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United Nations
International Drug Control Programme
P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria

information letter

In annual statement

Secretary-General Urges Action to Stop Drug Abuse

In a statement distributed worldwide marking the annual International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Secretary-General noted that drug abuse has escalated dramatically in recent years with Governments and peoples calling for increased multilateral cooperation to combat a problem that transcends national boundaries.

In response, the United Nations last year established the International Drug Control Programme to coordinate all UN drug control activities, to promote the implementation of the relevant treaties and to provide effective leadership in international drug control.

The statement noted that the Programme serves as the focal point for the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse (1991-2000) proclaimed by the General Assembly with the objective of promoting the implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

The Secretary-General also recalled that it is important to remember that Governments and intergovernmental organizations alone cannot resolve the problem and that every effort must be made to tap the energy and determination which exists at the local level among families, teachers, religious leaders, social and health-care workers to combat the scourge of drug abuse. He noted that for drug control efforts to succeed, non-governmental and community groups must play an even greater role.

He noted that, in the field of international drug control, there was a growing recognition of the need for a more balanced approach, coupled with the acceptance of the collective responsibility of all nations.

In moving towards the twenty-first century, he concluded, concerted action will be required more than ever at the international level to meet this global challenge.

Council Endorses All Commission Recommendations

Concluding its consideration of the drug control item, the Economic and Social Council adopted, on 30 July 1992, three resolutions and three decisions submitted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Earlier in the debate on the issue, the Council's Social Committee heard statements by Bertrand Juppin de Fondaumière, Director, Treaty Implementation and Legal Affairs Division, on behalf of the UNDCP Executive Director, and Oskar Schröder, President of the International Narcotics Control Board.

The INCB President warned against movements towards legalization of drugs which persist in a number of European countries. He stated that "a worldwide marketing of coca tea and coca products would make illicit cultivation and production a legal activity and would necessarily lead to an expansion of coca bush cultivation."

He noted that this was not in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, nor with national and international efforts to eradicate illicit supply of and demand for drugs derived from the coca leaf.

On the improvement of the functioning of the Commission's subsidiary bodies (1992/28), the Council approved the application of Iraq for membership in the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East. It invited the UNDCP Executive Director to continue to explore means of rationalizing the schedule of regional meetings of drug law enforcement agencies.

With respect to measures to prevent diversion of precursor and essential chemicals to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (1992/29), the Council invited Governments to take effective legislative, procedural and cooperative measures to implement the provisions of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

The Council recommended that States

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Bertrand Juppin de Fondaumière addressed the ECOSOC at New York on 22 July 1992 on behalf of the UNDCP Executive Director. ***For excerpts of the statement, see page 3.***

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1992 International Day Observed Worldwide

Vienna

On the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Executive Director, Giorgio Giacomelli, issued a message in which he noted that drug abuse remains a pervasive problem that corrode society, adversely affecting the health and welfare of individuals, families and communities. Illicit drug trafficking continues to undermine the fabric of society, threatening the security and stability of many countries in the world.

He noted that against this bleak background, Governments have entrusted the United Nations with a central role in mustering the resources and commitment to mount a global response to this global challenge. International drug control has been identified as one of the main priorities of the United Nations in the years to come. UNDCP will continue to serve as a catalyst for action against drug abuse and illicit traffic.

The Executive Director outlined some encouraging developments, including the major effort by Governments to adhere to international drug control treaties, which remain the cornerstone of international drug control.

He said that one of the priority activities of UNDCP has been to provide specialized legal advice and related training to assist States in harmonizing their legislation with the international drug control treaties and to ensure the implementation of their provisions.

Outlining the Programme's operational activities for the past year, the Executive Director stated that UNDCP has been engaged in providing financial and technical assistance to 65 countries, through 118 drug control projects, in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near and Middle East.

UNDCP has also provided technical assistance through some 49 regional and global projects, covering a broad range of drug control activities.

Paying tribute to the work undertaken by non-governmental organizations, the Executive Director concluded that "it is by working together in a new partnership with society as a whole that we shall rid the world of the threat of illicit drug traffic and the menace of drug abuse."

New York

In observance of the Fifth International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, a special press briefing was held at United Nations headquarters on 25 June 1992. Luis Mañueco-Jenkins, Coordinator for the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, and David Condliffe, Director of the New York City Mayor's Office of Drug Abuse Policy, outlined projects towards more effective drug control.

The Major of New York City had proclaimed 26 June 1992 as "Day against Drugs", applauding New Yorkers of every age and from every sector putting forth their best efforts to work toward eliminating drug abuse and drug trafficking.

The Coordinator for the Decade, which will continue until the year 2000, pointed out that the Global Programme of Action, together with the major international drug control conventions, formed the basic framework for international cooperation in the field of drug control.

Special video presentations on drug abuse were projected on TV monitors at UN headquarters.

At a special ceremony held at the Vienna International Centre, a message of the Secretary-General was read by the UNDCP Officer-in-Charge, B.J. de Fondaumière. On the same occasion, the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs held a commemorative meeting to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Participants heard a message by the UNDCP Executive Director and a presentation by a leading member of the Anton Proksch Institut, a treatment centre for drug abusers located in the outskirts of Vienna.

Madrid

On the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June 1992), Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain received UNDCP Executive Director Giorgio Giacomelli at the Zarzuela Palace in Madrid. The Queen, who is playing a major role in promoting drug control activities in Spain, reviewed with the Executive Director matters of mutual interest in this field. In recognition of their contributions to international action against the scourge of drug abuse, both of them received the prize "Tree of Life" from the Mayor of Buenos Aires on behalf of the International Association of Cities against Drugs. The prize was awarded in conjunction with the Mayors' Conference held in May 1992 at Buenos Aires.

Paris

"Art and creativity for the promotion of a drug-free culture" was the theme chosen this year by UNESCO to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. UNESCO Director-General, F. Mayor, spoke on that day on the French television about the activities of the Organization devoted to the theme.

In collaboration with the French Government, the City of Paris, and the "Délégation générale de lutte contre la drogue et la toxicomanie", UNESCO organized a European drawing contest on "Vision of the World without Drugs". Participating were hundreds of 11-12 year-old children from Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the Ukraine and Yugoslavia.

The five winners came from Hungary, Lithuania, Norway and Turkey, with the best drawings exhibited at UNESCO headquarters from 22 to 30 June 1992. Prizes were awarded on 26 June 1992 by the Director-General at UNESCO headquarters, followed by a musical-opera "Tides and Waves", which encourages young people to combine efforts against drug abuse, performed by the Warsaw Great Theater and the Wroclaw Opera.

UNDCP was represented at the event by Mr. V. Fenopetov, Chief of the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit, IOCD.

Genoa

An international congress on "The route of drugs" was organized from 26 to 28 June 1992 at Genoa by the Centro di Solidarietà of Genoa.

The opening ceremony coincided with the observance of the UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. High-level authorities of the Italian Government and the Genoa local administration attended. A filmed message from the UNDCP Executive Director was also shown, stressing the importance of the 26 June celebration.

The Congress addressed several topics, such as drug trafficking, legislation, law enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

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Council Endorses.....

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strengthen cooperation in the field of law enforcement by applying the controlled delivery technique in appropriate circumstances to suspect consignments of precursor and essential chemicals.

Regarding the demand for, and supply of, opiates for medical and scientific needs (1992/30), the Council urged Governments to continue to give serious consideration to solving the problem of excess stocks of opiates raw materials held by the traditional supplier countries, taking into consideration the heavy financial burden imposed on such countries by this problem.

In addition, the Council decided to approve the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission. It also decided to take note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-fifth session and of the INCB report for 1991.

China, Australia Host Training Seminars

For the fourth consecutive year, the INCB training seminar for national drug control administrators in the Asian region took place in Beijing from 8 to 12 June 1992. The seminar was organized by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in collaboration with the Government of China, with financial support from Japan.

Countries in Asia are participating in the seminar on a rotational basis. This year the seminar was attended by drug control administrators from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam. Observers from Japan, the United States of America, Interpol and WHO were also present.

For the first time, a training seminar was held in cooperation with the Government of Australia for national drug control administrators in the Pacific and Oceania region, in Melbourne from 15 to 19 June 1992. Present were participants from the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The course trainers were provided by UNDCP and Australia.

The INCB training seminars are intended for officials who are in need of detailed technical knowledge of requirements of international drug control treaties and directly in charge of the control of the licit movements of drugs and of reporting to INCB.

The seminars also offer national officials an understanding of the control system in other countries of the region in order to facilitate future collaboration in international drug control.

From 4 May to 3 July 1992, an advanced training course in methods for the identification and analysis of seized drugs, including some designer drugs, was organized by the UNDCP narcotics laboratory in Vienna. The training course is part of a series of technical assistance activities undertaken by UNDCP in support of Member States' efforts to combat drug trafficking and drug abuse. Attending the two-month course were the following scientists (pictured from left to right): Mr. Wang You-Mei (China), Mr. Adolfo Ernesto Guinle (Argentina), Mr. Elburt W. Ferguson (Bahamas), Mr. Vladimir Sorokin (Russian Federation), Mr. Gabor Nagy (Hungary) and Mr. Jean-Marie Trapsida (Niger).

UNDCP Statement at ECOSOC, July 1992

"At the outset I wish to indicate that despite our concerted efforts drug abuse remains a pervasive problem, adversely affecting the health and welfare of individuals, families and communities. Illicit drug trafficking continues to undermine the fabric of society, threatening the security and stability of many countries in the world.

"Even with its increased workload, I am happy to report that the outcome of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission was a clear manifestation of the positive approach and spirit of co-operation of the international community which has now embarked on a more coordinated and pro-active approach in the field of drug abuse control within the forum of the United Nations system.

"The Commission adopted thirteen resolutions and five decisions and approved three resolutions for adoption by the Council to which I draw your attention.

"An encouraging development during the past year has been the effort of Governments to adhere to the international drug control treaties. I have the pleasure to inform you that at the last report 135 States were parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and 107 States to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

"It is gratifying to note that 21 States have, during the past year, become Parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, bringing the total number of States Parties to that Convention to 63. This is a clear demonstration of the political will and commitment of an increasing number of governments to forcefully combat illicit drug trafficking.

"I urge those States that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to become Parties to all the international drug control treaties. UNDCP stands ready to provide legal advice and related training to assist States in harmonizing their legislation with the international drug control treaties and to help ensure implementation of their provisions. It has already provided legal assistance to over 40 States at their request.

"The operational activities of UNDCP interact with the main theme of the high-level segment of this session of the Council: the role of the United Nations system in enhancing international cooperation for development. During 1991, UNDCP cooperated with 65 countries through 118 country-specific drug control programmes. In addition, the operational work programme for 1991 included 49 regional and global projects supporting a broad range of drug control activities, such as specialized training, research and advisory services.

"These activities have been implemented by UNDCP in collaboration with various specialized agencies of the United Nations system, other international organizations and various non-governmental organizations. The budget for UNDCP for technical cooperation in 1992 totals nearly 82 million dollars; for 1993, it will be almost 86 million dollars.

"A breakthrough was achieved in the implementation of the UNDCP sub-regional approach when the Executive Director signed multi-country agreements with China, Myanmar and Thailand on a visit to Southeast Asia last month. Projects will be supported by the newly-established UNDCP Regional Centre in Bangkok.

"Sub-regional strategies are also emerging in other parts of the world. In Western Asia the Economic Cooperation Organization has given high priority to drug control and is working in close cooperation with UNDCP. In October, UNDCP will organize in Teheran a ministerial-level Conference of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

"In Africa, where drug abuse and trafficking have become serious social problems, subregional strategies have also been developed with concerned organizations such as the Economic Community of Central African States.

"In April 1992, UNDCP undertook a special fact-finding mission to seven republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States. A joint UNDCP/WHO mission initiated contacts with the three Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in May. A first mission to Lebanon and Syria was also fielded in that month. Follow-up action on those missions is already underway.

"As the international community focused this year on the environment, there was increasing recognition that illicit drug production threatened some of the most vulnerable regions of the planet. The operators of clandestine heroin and cocaine laboratories dump thousands of tons of highly toxic chemicals, polluting rivers and streams. Slash-and-burn methods employed to clear forests to grow opium poppies, cannabis plants and coca bushes destroy fragile ecosystems.

"The Executive Director of UNDCP was pleased to be able to address the World Conference on the Environment at Rio de Janeiro this June and to present a paper outlining the environmental effects of illicit drug production. UNDCP plans to work closely with governments and within the United Nations system to ensure that the linkage between issues of illicit drug production and environmental protection are adequately addressed in programmes of alternate development.

"In spite of our consolidated structure and increased resources, UNDCP can achieve little without the support of its partners inside and outside the United Nations system. The Programme therefore attaches great importance to strengthening its ties with development assistance agencies, especially at the field level where the Programme welcomes the type of integrated structures and approaches that have been referred to earlier in this session by the Secretary-General and by the UNDP Administrator.

"The Programme will continue to strive forcefully towards its objectives of producing a lasting impact on the prevention of drug abuse, the reduction of illicit supply and the fight against illicit drug traffic, as mandated by the international drug control treaties. Our continued effectiveness will be conditional on maintaining a flexible structure and operational agility as well as the sustained support of all States."

Senior UNDCP Officers Appointed

On the recommendation of Giorgio Giacomelli, Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed two Directors to head the main divisions of the Programme.

The Director of Treaty Implementation and Legal Affairs Division, Bertrand Juppin de Fondaumière is responsible of the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, the Secretariat of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Legal Service.

Mr. Fondaumière, a national of Mauritius, joined the United Nations Secretariat in 1973. From 1979 to 1986 he was Deputy Secretary of INCB. In 1986, he was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

From 1987 to 1991 he was Deputy Director of the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs. Since July 1991 he has been heading the Programme Support Service of UNDCP.

Born in Mauritius on 14 May 1945, Mr. Fondaumière studied Economics at the University Aix-en-Provence, France.

The Director of the Division for Operational Activities which covers all regional bureaux of the Programme is Gerd Dietrich Merrem, a national of Germany.

Prior to taking up his current assignment, Mr. Merrem was Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Myanmar (Burma) since 1990.

After serving in the German Volunteer Programme, he joined UNDP in 1973 and held subsequently various positions at the UNDP headquarters in Indonesia, India, Tanzania, Equatorial Guinea, Angola and New York (1973-1989). From 1989 to 1990 he assumed a special assignment in the Central American Peace Initiative of the United Nations.

Born on 4 June 1938, Mr. Merrem has an Engineer Degree from the Berlin Technical University. He also studied Philosophy in the Free University of Berlin.

Korean Goodwill Ambassadors To Promote Drug Control Efforts Worldwide

UNDCP has appointed three world renowned Korean musicians as Goodwill Ambassadors to promote the Programme's drug control activities worldwide.

They are Ms. Kyung-Wha Chung, the London-based violinist, Ms. Myung-Wha Chung, cellist based in New York, and Mr. Myung-Whun Chung, pianist/conductor who is the Music Director of the French National Opera-Bastille in Paris. In addition to their solo careers, the brother and sisters also perform as the Chung Trio.

In a statement on that occasion, UNDCP Executive Director Giorgio Giacomelli welcomed the artists' decision to lend their support to the global effort to fashion a drug-free culture. He also thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Seoul Broadcasting System for their pledge to support the programme financially.

Taking advantage of their frequent concert tours to many countries, the Chungs will undertake a wide range of advocacy activities including benefit concerts, meetings with government officials and visits to schools and drug rehabilitation centres.

Their first activities as Anti-Drug Ambassadors will take place in Seoul in late August when the Trio has scheduled a major benefit concert and meetings with top government officials and parliamentarians.

Dublin Group Reviews Strategies

From 22 to 25 June 1992, the Dublin Group held its regular working level meetings in Brussels to discuss issues pertaining to drug control in the different regions of the world. Representatives of the different UNDCP regional bureaux attended.

The Dublin Group, which encompasses all 12 members of the European Community plus Australia, Canada, Japan, Sweden, the United States of America, the European Commission and UNDCP, aims at reviewing international drug control strategies and serving as a consultative mechanism on drug control issues between donor and UNDCP.

This year's meeting focussed on drug-related issues in South-West Asia, South-East Asia, Eastern Europe, the Balkan Route, Middle East, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Of particular interest were the findings of the fact-finding missions launched by UNDCP earlier this year in the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Baltic States, Syria and Lebanon. Most of the participants recognized that in these geographical areas UNDCP should take the lead in coordinating international drug control assistance.

The Group welcomed the development of the UNDCP subregional strategy in South-East Asia, and suggested that a subregional approach be also envisaged for South-West Asia.

G-7 Summit Reiterates Commitment against Drugs

In a statement issued on behalf of the seven industrialized democracies on 8 July 1992 at Munich, the Chairman of the Group, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, recognized that the mastering of global challenges such as environment protection and drug abuse called for close cooperation. Concern was expressed over the growing links between terrorist organizations and drug traffickers.

The Chairman further noted: *"Through our initiatives of recent years we have considerably strengthened international cooperation to combat drug trafficking.*

Meanwhile well over 20 countries, as well as the European Community and various international organizations, including the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, are involved in the work of the Financial Action Task Force to investigate the laundering of drug money, and of the Chemical Action Task Force to prevent chemicals being diverted to the illicit manufacture of drugs.

The fight against drugs remains a major challenge. In order to meet this challenge effectively, we shall continue our efforts to achieve broad international cooperation. In this context, we attach special importance to the role of United Nations, especially its Drug Control Programme."

Calendar of Events

Government authorities, agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as research and other specialized associations are invited to forward to the Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria. Information on forthcoming meetings relating to international drug control. Basic data on international events will be published as appropriate in the UNDCP's Information Letter, which is distributed worldwide. This information is intended to assist entities within the United Nations system, as well as other concerned organizations, in scheduling meetings, exchanging results and enhancing coordination. The timely receipt of comprehensive information on planned events will be appreciated and will greatly assist in the preparation of Calendars of Events.

1992

United Nations System

26-28 August	UNRISD: Workshop on Socio-Economic and Political Impact of Production, Trade and Use of Illicit Narcotic Drugs.	Vienna
29 August - 8 September	UNDCP: Drug Law Enforcement Training Course.	Cairo
7-9 September	INCB: Working Group on Investigation Guidelines to Prevent Diversion of Precursors (2nd meeting).	Vienna
14-17 September	UNDCP: Ad hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control.	Vienna
21-23 September	UNDCP: Technical Consultation on Drug Issues in Southwest Asia.	Islamabad
24 September	UNDCP: Meeting on Law Enforcement in Europe.	Bonn
28 September - 2 October	WHO: Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.	Geneva
28 September - 2 October	UNDCP: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLAC), Latin America and the Caribbean.	Acapulco, Mexico
29 September - 2 October	UNDCP/ILO: Interregional Meeting of Experts on Drugs and Alcohol in the Maritime Industry.	Geneva
30 September - 2 October	UNICRI: 2nd International Conference on Crime.	Rome
24-28 October	UNDCP: Ministerial-level Meeting of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.	Teheran
3-9 November	General Assembly, 3rd Committee (item 96 on narcotic drugs).	New York
9-26 November	International Narcotics Control Board, 53rd session.	Vienna
23-27 November	UNDCP: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLAP), Asia and the Pacific Region.	Bangkok
14-18 December	INCB Training Seminar.	Abidjan

Intergovernmental Organizations

14-18 September	CICAD/OEA/ASEP/UNDCP: Multinational Training Seminar on the Control of Precursors and Essential Chemicals.	Argentina
17-20 September	DEA/Interpol/INCB: Conference on Chemical Control Operations.	Lyon, France
20-24 September	Commonwealth Secretariat: Conference on International White Collar Crime.	Oxford, U.K.
28-30 September	Council of Europe: Money Laundering Conference.	Strasbourg, France
5-9 October	South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (ASEP): Training Seminar for Drug Control Administrators.	Santiago
27-30 October	Organization of American States/Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission: 12th regular session.	Washington, D.C.
26 November - 2 December	Colombo Plan Bureau: 34th Consultative Committee Meeting.	Yangon, Burma

Non-governmental Organizations

16-21 August	International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA): 36th International Congress on Alcohol and Drug Dependence.	Glasgow, Scotland
1-4 September	International Association against Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse: International Colloquium "Legalization of Drugs - Way Out or Dead End?"	Moscow
7-10 September	Wilton Park Conference: European Cooperation in the Fight against the Drugs Trade.	Steyning, U.K.
7-11 September	International Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention in Schools (ICDAPS): Sub-regional Seminar on Drug Abuse Prevention in Community-based Schools.	Vietnam
8 September	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
28 September	Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs.	Vienna
28 September - 2 October	12th International Conference of the International Committee on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety.	Cologne, Germany
13 October	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
18-23 October	Centro di Solidarietà di Verona: 15th World Conference of Therapeutic Communities.	Venice, Italy
22-24 October	ICDAPS: Regional Conference on the Role and Effects of Mass Media Programmes in Schools.	New Delhi
9 November	Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs.	Vienna
10 November	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
8 December	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York